

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 01643 160937Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00
L-03 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 /099 W
-----004414 161455Z /43
R 160820Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8490

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PASS USDA

PASS AID/ASIA/BIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID EAGR BG
SUBJECT: BDG REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PL-480 EXPORT LIMITATION

REF: DACCA 0726

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DATED MARCH 8 RESTATING BDG'S REQUEST (REFTEL) FOR A WAIVER OF THE EXPORT LIMITATION IN THE FY 77 PL-480 AGREEMENT (ITEM 4, PARA A), WHICH EFFECTIVELY PROHIBITS EXPORTS OF RICE BY BANGLADESH IN U.S. FISCAL YEAR 1978. MISSION RECOMMENDS NO ACTION BE TAKEN ON REQUEST AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF NOTE FOLLOWS: QUOTE -- (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING) -- HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THAT, WITH A VIEW TO EARNING FOREIGN EXCHANGE, THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING EXPORT OF FINE QUALITY RICE, SPECIFIC VARIETIES OF WHICH ARE LOCALLY CALLED KALIJIRI, CHINIGURA, SAKKAR KURA, BASHFUL, BALAM, BINNI AND KATARIBHOG. THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE THUS EARNED WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO

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IMPORT LARGER QUANTITY OF OTHER TYPE OF FOOD GRAINS. THE VARIETIES SPECIFIED ARE VERY COSTLY AND BEYOND THE PURCHASING POWER OF COMMON CONSUMERS EXCEPT A FEW BELONGING TO HIGH INCOME GROUPS WHO CONSUME A VERY SMALL QUANTITY. ABOUT 5,000 TO 10,000 METRIC TONS MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT FOB PRICE OF WHICH IS EXPECTED TO U.S. \$400 PER MT. INITIALLY, THE GOVERNMENT

INTENDS TO EXPORT A MINIMAL QUANTITY WHICH MAY BE INCREASED AT A LATER DATE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVING OFFERS FROM SOME MIDDLE-EAST COUNTRIES AND IT IS CONSIDERED PROFITABLE TO EXPORT THIS RICE INSTEAD OF CONSUMING IT LOCALLY. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH REQUESTS THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES MAY BE INITIATED SO THAT THE RELEVANT CLAUSE OF PL-480 PROHIBITING THE EXPORT OF FOOD GRAINS FROM BANGLADESH COULD BE WAIVERED IN FAVOR OF BANGLADESH. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE).. UNQUOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: ALTHOUGH BDG'S WAIVER PROPOSAL HAS ECONOMIC MERIT, WE RECOMMEND THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME PENDING CLARIFICATION OF QUESTIONS WE ARE RAISING WITH BDG CONCERNING COMPLIANCE WITH SELF-HELP AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF OUR TITLE I AGREEMENT.
BERGESEN

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: EXPORT CONTROLS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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